

INSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Re-affirmed by IPC 21st September 2023

1. Introduction

1.1. Children and young people have a right to learn, have fun and be safe in “services” and facilities provided for them and when participating in their chosen activities.

1.2 Instow Parish Council owns, leases and/or manages various areas and facilities within the Parish that are used by children, in particular Instow beach. It therefore has an obligation to ensure the well-being of children and young persons and to protect them from abuse when they are using the services and facilities provided by the Council.

1.3 These responsibilities are as outlined in the Children Act 2004 and the Humans Rights Act 1998.

1.4 All children and young people irrespective of their age, class, religion, culture, disability, gender, ethnicity or sexual preference have a right to protection from abuse.

2. Purpose of a Policy

2.1. The purpose of having a written policy is: -

2.2 To help protect children and young people whilst using the Council’s facilities and “services” and

2.3 To protect Instow Parish Council, its staff, elected members, volunteers, and contractors (self employed persons) who perform work for the Council that is associated with the provision of its services and management of its facilities

3. Policy Statement

3.1 Instow Parish Council is committed to providing a safe environment for children and young people and safeguarding their well being particularly when using Council’s facilities and services.

3.2. Instow Parish Council will use its best endeavours to ensure that whilst using Council’s facilities and services children and young people will not be placed at risk or harm and that they will be protected from all forms of abuse, including sexual, physical, physiological abuse and neglect.

3.3 All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

3.4 Suspicions/allegations will be recorded and passed to an appropriate investigatory authority. In all cases this should be done by the Clerk in liaison with the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman.

3.5 Elected members, staff, volunteers, and contractors (self employed persons) will familiarise themselves with this policy and act appropriately. Their active co-operation is essential for the policy to succeed.

3.6 The Parish Council has overall responsibility for ensuring this policy is adhered to although elected members and staff have a responsibility to promote and implement the policy.

3.7 All elected members and staff, including contractors, should be encouraged to demonstrate exemplary behaviour/good practice in order to protect themselves from false allegations.

3.8 Exemplary behaviour/good practice means, for example, to always work in an open environment, treat all children equally and with respect and dignity, maintain a safe and appropriate distance with children, conduct yourself in a manner that sets a good example, never use physical force, and keep a written record where necessary.

4. Risks

4.1 Instow Parish Council also recognises that it has a duty of care to children and young persons (and adults) when they are using the Council's facilities and "services, for example bus shelters, parish seats and the beach.

4.2. To this end Instow Parish Council has a "Beach Risk Assessment" policy that is reviewed annually (and is approved by its insurers) and has procedures in place, as agreed by its insurers, as regards the maintenance of its assets such as bus shelter and parish seats.

5. Definitions

5.1 The term "child or young person" is used to refer to anyone under the age of 18 years and whilst this policy is focused on the protection of children and young persons much of the advice is also applicable to vulnerable adults.

6. Policy Review

6.1 This policy will be reviewed annually.

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